9th August 1960] [Sri P. Kakkan]

The Nandiar channel therefore depends for its supplies on the drainage flows of the Cauvery channels. The total registered ayacut of the Nandiar channel in Lalgudi and Udayarpalayam taluks is 7,338.46 acres. During the past five years, there has been an increase in the total cultivated area by about 3,000 acres.

Usually, the Nandiar channel is opened for irrigation on the 15th June every year (i.e.), 15 days after the opening of the Ayyan and Peruvalai channels. But this year, the Nandiar channel was opened on the 25th June 1960, due to the postponement of the closure period of Ayyan and Peruvalai channels by ten days.

The scarcity of supplies in the Nandiar channel was also brought to the notice of the Government on 26th July 1960 itself, and the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) was asked to issue necessary instructions immediately to the Superintending Engineer concerned, to ensure regular supplies in the channel.

At the time of opening the Nandiar channel, the supply is generally inadequate, as it takes some time for the drainage of the upper channels to collect. This year, the work to provide screw gearing shutters in the Nandiar and Koolayar anicuts was taken up under Special Minor Irrigation Programme. To carry out the work, ring bunds were put up in front of the anicuts and irrigation was carried on with the available water. But, due to unexpected rains in the catchment of the Nandiar, there were heavy floods in the river and the ring bunds, already put up, gave way. As a result, it was not possible either to send adequate supplies for irrigation and to carry out improvements works immediately to such a stage as to divert all the available discharge in the Koolayar to the Nandiar channel. Consequently there was low supply in the channel. The improvement works that were being carried out to the anicuts have since come up to the crest level and all the available supply is being diverted into the Nandiar channel. It is also reported that arrangements have since been made for diverting full supply from 2nd August 1960.

From the above, it may be seen that there has been no failure of water-supply in the channel pointed out by the Member, but only low supply due to the circumstances beyond the control of the department.

V.—ANNOUNCEMENT—THE MADRAS SALES OF MOTOR SPIRIT TAXATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce that the Governor has given his recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1960.